WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of media program selection using a media program storage system having access to a plurality of media program signals from a plurality of different
5   geographic locations, at least two of the geographic locations having associated media program listings representing media programs available at the geographic location, the method comprising:
         assigning a preferred media program listing to a
10   client of the media program storage system;
         presenting to the client, via a computer network, the preferred media program listing;
         receiving from the client a request for storage including the identity of a media program selected by the
15   client; and
         storing the selected media program for the client in response to the received request.

2.   A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the media programs have an associated start time and the
20   method comprises:
         identifying one of the plurality of geographic locations in which the start time for the requested program has not yet occurred; and
         storing the selected program from the identified
25   geographic location by a storage unit.

3.   A method in accordance with claim 1 comprising presenting the client with an opportunity to receive a media program listing other than the preferred media program listing.

30   4.   A method in accordance with claim 3 comprising changing the presented media program listing in response to a client request to display a media program listing for a location other than that of the preferred listing.

5.   A method in accordance with claim 1 comprising searching the plurality of media program listings to identify a geographic location having access to a media program requested by the client.

6.   A method in accordance with claim 1 comprising presenting to the client a media program search capability.

7.   A method in accordance with claim 6 comprising receiving media program key words from the client for use by the search capability.

8.   A method in accordance with claim 7 comprising presenting to the client one or more media programs identified by the search capability.

9.   A storage allocation method comprising:
    receiving a request for media program storage services from a client;
    allocating a predetermined amount of client available storage capacity to the client in response to the request;
    receiving a request for storage of an identified media program from the client; and
    storing the identified media program and determining an amount of client available storage capacity remaining after the storage of the identified program.

10.   A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising notifying the client of the amount of remaining client available storage.

11.   A method in accordance with claim 10 comprising offering additional storage capacity to the client.

12. A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising receiving a request for additional storage from the client and in response thereto, allocating additional storage capacity to the client.

5   13. A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising delivering the stored media program from storage to the client and increasing the storage allocated to the client by an amount substantially equal to the storage used to store the stored media program.

10   14. A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein an expiration date is established for the media program stored and the amount of storage capacity used to store the identified media program is made reusable by the client at the passing of the expiration date.

15   15. A method in accordance with claim 14 comprising notifying the client of the expiration date before the passing of the expiration date.

16. A method in accordance with claim 15 comprising offering the client an additional time period of storage
20   for the stored multimedia program.

17. A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the predetermined amount of client available storage capacity allocated the client is determined by a quality of service level requested by the client and the method
25   comprises assigning a cost to the client based on the allocated amount of storage.

18. A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein the predetermined amount of client available storage capacity allocated to the client is determined by a request for
30   storage capacity from the client and the method comprises

assigning a cost to the client based on the allocated amount of storage.

19. A method in accordance with claim 9 comprising determining the amount of storage needed to store a media
5   program identified by the client and denying storage when the needed amount of storage exceeds the amount of client available storage.

20. A method in accordance with claim 19 comprising offering additional storage capacity to the client.

10   21. A method in accordance with claim 18 wherein the media program storage system includes a plurality of media program storage locations and the method comprises notifying an allocator function of the total amount of storage capacity in use to store media programs requested
15   by the client.

22. A media program storage system comprising:
a plurality of storage units for receiving and storing a predetermined plurality of media program signals, said storage units being located in different
20   geographic locations;
a network accessible server for receiving requests for storage of identified media program signals from network connected clients and in response to a request from a client for notifying one of the plurality of
25   storage units to receive and store the identified media program signal; and
the storage units comprise apparatus responsive to the notifications from the network accessible server for receiving and storing the identified program and for
30   notifying the requesting client of a network address at which to retrieve the stored media program.

23. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 comprising apparatus responsive to a delivery request from the client via the network for delivering the stored media program to the client via the network.

24. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the network accessible server stores a value identifying an amount of storage available to the client.

25. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the network accessible server stores a preferred listing of media programs for access by the client.

26. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 25 wherein the network accessible server stores listings of media programs in addition to the preferred listing.

27. A media program storage system comprising:
receiving apparatus for receiving media program signals from a plurality of geographic areas;
a client server for receiving from a client via a computer network a request for storage of an identified one of the media program signals and for directing the connection of the identified media program signal from the receiving apparatus to a storage apparatus, the storage apparatus comprising storage media responsive to the client server for storing the identified media program.

28. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 27 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

29. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 27 wherein the storage media comprises apparatus responsive to a request received from the client via the computer network for transmitting the
5   stored media program to the client via the computer network.

30. A media program storage in accordance with claim 27 wherein the client server stores information identifying the plurality of media program signals.

10   31. A method of media program storage comprising:
        receiving a plurality of media program signals from a plurality of geographically separated locations;
        receiving a request for storage of a specified one of the media program signals;
15   connecting the specified media program signal to a media storage apparatus; and
        storing the specified media program signal by the storage apparatus.

        32. A method in accordance with claim 31 comprising
20 receiving a request for delivery of the stored media program via a computer network.

        33. A method in accordance with claim 32 comprising transmitting the stored media program to the client via the computer network.

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